

**Opinion pieces; At last, some good news, editorial, Jan. 5 Bus-only lanes are a waste of valuable pavement, Letters, Jan. 5 Let the Eglinton Crosstown LRT be a lesson: beware public-private partnerships, James, Jan. 4 Turn your empty spot into cash, Jan. 6**

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## **Body**

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Commitment to climate good, but action is what counts

At last, some good news, editorial, Jan. 5

Thank you for recognizing the "groundswell of public support" for "real action" on climate change. Now, at the very least, many governments are saying the right words: hundreds have issued climate emergency declarations in 2019. But the question remains: will 2020 bring bold and sweeping action to match the urgency in these statements?

A first indication of how governments will act locally in this new decade will come on Friday, when the City of Toronto releases its proposed 2020 budget. Will our tax dollars actually support climate action? As Toronto's first climate emergency budget, we should expect increased funding for priorities like low carbon housing, transportation, and energy. That would mean budget lines earmarked for the rapid construction of low-carbon affordable housing, increased incentives for home energy retrofits, expanded renewable energy production, new bus priority zones and protected bike lanes, and new investments to create good green jobs here in Toronto.

We should all be watching on Friday to see if our leaders are willing to back up their climate words with real climate action.

Michael Polanyi, Climate Campaigner

Toronto Environmental Alliance

Change in format makes

sharing paper a bit harder

I am dismayed by the recent change to the Toronto Star format for the Monday and Tuesday editions. Each morning my husband and I enjoy reading the newspaper, a first in the day social event with our coffee at the kitchen table. While one reads the national and international news section, the other selects the GTA, Entertainment or Life section.

Now the overloaded 24 page section takes away that choice. How about a more equitable two-section format? Or do I need to take scissors to the A section ...

Joan O'Mara, Toronto

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The Monday-Tuesday format works just fine. Keep doing whatever it takes to deal with reduced revenue while providing us with credible news.

Bill Wensley, Cobourg

Giving buses their own lane benefits everyone on the road

Bus-only lanes are a waste of valuable pavement, Letters, Jan. 5

In his letter, Robert Woodcock calls bus-only lanes "a gross waste of valuable pavement" and wonders "how it is sensible to have an entire paved lane reserved for use by a single bus every few minutes."

A bus in a dedicated lane does not have to stop in a live traffic lane, or pull out to enter a live lane at every bus stop, which eliminates traffic backup behind it.

Because a bus in a dedicated lane isn't impeded by traffic, it's more likely to be on time, and that makes it a more attractive option for people to use it. More people on buses means fewer people driving, which in turn improves traffic flow. Rather than a waste of pavement, a bus-only lane is the best thing a city can add to a major road.

Jil McIntosh, Oshawa

Public-private partnerships

leave taxpayers on the hook

Let the Eglinton Crosstown LRT be a lesson: beware public-private partnerships, James, Jan. 4

I read with interest Royson James' column about P3 deals. I have long thought that they should be called P4 deals, meaning that the Public Pays for Private Profit. As he says, in many cases, cost over runs are paid by the public but the private corporations involved make their profits and the managers, owners and top executives have their salary increases. So, let's stop calling these deals P3 and instead call the P4.

Bill Armstrong, Markham

Don't forget to pay tax

if you rent out parking spot

Turn your empty spot into cash, Jan. 6

The article regarding renting out an unused parking space is very relevant in today's economy - any advice on how to increase your cash resources is important. The article did miss one very important aspect of renting though - is there an obligation under CRA regulations regarding paying any income taxes on this windfall. Not every cloud has a silver lining in CRA land.

Lance Naismith, Oakville

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